

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 8, the step of "generating a forecast (CA_{LS}) from Load and Ship (LS) by forecasting Customer Acceptances (CA) based on Load (L), Ship (S), and Customer Acceptances history (CA_{hist}) to generate CA_{LS} by estimating the functional relationship and the parameters relating the two ratios quarter-to-date load to quarter CA actual and quarter-to-date ship to quarter CA actual" is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art. While the use of the variables Load, Ship, Customer Acceptance, and Customer Acceptance history to forecast demand are well-known in the art, the estimation of the functional relationship between the ratios of Load-to- CA and Ship-to- CA constitutes allowable subject matter.

Regarding claim 9, it recites substantially the same subject matter as claim 8. Additionally, the step of "using a log mean to sigma ratio of CRAD distribution, adjusting, by the computer, the forecasts CA_L , CA_S , and CA_{LS} to arrive at more accurate forecasts $CA_{L,CRAD}$, $CA_{S,CRAD}$, and $CA_{LS,CRAD}$ " is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art. While the use of log mean to sigma ratios is old and well-known in the art, its claimed application for adjusting demand forecasts constitutes allowable subject matter.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jaime Cardenas-Navia whose telephone number is (571)270-1525. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 10:30AM - 7:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bradley Bayat can be reached on (571) 272-6704. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

February 9, 2009

/J. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 3624

/Bradley B Bayat/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3624